THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However,there are institutional mechanisms for regular dialogue with the Government of Bangladesh on various issues related to border management including infiltration and smuggling. Both countries have agreed to cooperate to curb these trans-border illegal activities.

Accompanying of CEOs with P.M. to Malaysia

3427. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a team consisting of Fifty member CEOs from the Confederation of Indian Industry accompanied the Prime Minister to Malaysia; and

(b) if so, what have been their achievements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the visit a Malaysia-India Business Forum was jointly organized by CII, FICCI and Indian High Commission with Malaysia's Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (ASLI). PM Mahathir of Malaysia attended the meeting. Our Prime Minister delivered the Key Note Address. About 1000 Malaysian senior business representatives attended the Forum at which fifteen Business-to-Business Agreements/MoUs were signed.

CII also organized an India-Malaysia Technology Show in which 24 companies from India and Malaysia had participated. It was well attended by the Malaysian Public.

Indo-Nepal Relations

3428. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are apprehensive about the relation between Nepal and India after the situation created by massacre in Royal Palace, Nepal followed by the resignation of their Prime Minster; and

(b) what diplomatic action has been taken to ensure that the existing relations between the two countries improve further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) In an unfortunate tragic

incident, King Birednra and Queen Aishwarya along with some other members of the Royal Family of Nepal were shot dead on June 1, 2001. Crown Prince Dipendra, who was involved in the shoot out, also succumbed to his injuries and died on June 4, 2001. Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, younger brother of Late King Birendra,was pronounced the new King by the Royal Council of Nepal and was enthroned on June 4, 2001.

Immediately after the tragic incident, Government of India relealsed a statement which was read out by the External Affairs Minister on June 2. It stated that as a close neighbour and friend, India conveyed its heartfelt condolences to the mourning nation of the Kingdom of Nepal. A three day State mourning was declared by Government of India as a mark of respect. On the same day, the Indian Cabinet passed a Resolution at a specially convened emergency meeting. Rashtrapatiji conveyed his condolences to the new Kng. PM sent letters of condolence to the Queen Mother and the then PM Girija Prasad Koirala. While expressing condolences, confidence was expressed that friendship and co-operation would continue between our two countries in pursuit of peace and progress and mutually beneficial developement.

Soon after assumption of office by Hon'ble Sher Bahadur Deuba as the Prime Minister of Nepal, PM spoke to him over the telephone and a congratulatory message was sent thereafter.

The enduring bonds of friendship between India and Nepal are strong and are based on mutual understanding and trust. Our relations have withstood the test of time and Internal developments in one country will not be allowed by either side to adversely affect the other and relations between the two.

The existing bilateral mechanisms between the two countries continue to be in operation. Agencies of the two governments are meeting regularly. Some of the Meetings held recently include the Fourth Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Border Management in June, 2001 and the Inter-Governmental Meeting to discuss matters relating to trade and Transit in August, 2001.

The External Affairs Minister, Shri Jaswant Singh, also paid a goodwill visit to Kathmandu from August 17 to 19, 2001. This was the first high level contact between the two governents since the enthronement of King Gyanendra on June 4, 2001.

Co-operation with Norway in IT Sector

3429. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: